

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter that is provided with plural ports for performing light input and light output inside a cladding layer formed from a glass material, and in which a waveguide core is formed that optically connects said ports, comprising the steps of:

setting at least one portion between said ports as a refractive index adjustment area and forming portions of said waveguide core ~~other than~~, wherein the waveguide core is not formed in the refractive index adjustment area;

inputting signal light into one port and monitoring the signal light outputted from other ports; and

adjusting optical characteristics of said optical coupler/splitter by forming the waveguide core in said refractive index adjustment area of said waveguide core by adjusting a refractive index of said refractive index adjustment area by focusing a laser beam onto said refractive index adjustment area during the monitoring.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 1, wherein the portions of said waveguide core other than said refractive index adjustment area are formed by focusing a laser beam.

Claims 3-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter that is provided with plural ports for performing light input and light output inside a cladding layer formed from a glass material, and in which a waveguide core is formed that optically connects said ports, comprising the steps of:

forming portions of said waveguide core, wherein the waveguide core is not formed in a refractive index adjustment area;

focusing a laser beam into said ~~waveguide core~~ refractive index adjustment area;

scanning said ~~waveguide core~~ refractive index adjustment area by shifting the focal point of said laser beam along said ~~waveguide core~~ refractive index adjustment area repeatedly to form the waveguide core in said area; and

adjusting optical characteristics of said optical coupler/splitter by changing the number of scanning.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 5, wherein, the number of scanning is determined beforehand based on the relationship between the optical characteristics of said optical coupler/splitter and the number of scanning.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 5, wherein said waveguide core is formed by focusing said laser beam.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 6, wherein said waveguide core is formed by focusing said laser beam.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to anyone of claims 1 to 8, wherein at least one of said laser beam used to adjust said optical characteristics and said laser beam used to form said waveguide core is a femto-second laser.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to anyone claims 1 to 8, wherein said optical coupler/splitter is a Y-branching optical splitter.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 9, wherein said optical coupler/splitter is a Y-branching optical splitter.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to anyone of claims 1 to 8, wherein said optical coupler/splitter is a tap coupler.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 9, wherein said optical coupler/splitter is a tap coupler.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 10, wherein said optical coupler/splitter is a tap coupler.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method for manufacturing a planar lightwave circuit type optical coupler/splitter according to claim 11, wherein said optical coupler/splitter is a tap coupler.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for adjusting optical characteristics of a planar lightwave circuit device that is provided with plural ports for performing light input and light output inside a cladding layer formed from a glass material, and in which a waveguide core that optically connects said ports is formed by focusing a laser beam, wherein the waveguide core is not formed in a refractive index adjustment area, comprising the steps of:

inputting signal light into one port and monitoring signal light outputted from other ports;
focusing said laser beam into said ~~waveguide core~~ refractive index adjustment area
between the input ports and the output ports during the monitoring;

scanning said ~~waveguide core~~ refractive index adjustment area by shifting the focal point of said laser beam along said ~~waveguide core~~ refractive index adjustment area repeatedly to form the waveguide core in said area; and

adjusting optical characteristics of said planar lightwave circuit device by changing the number of times of scanning.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (original): The method for adjusting optical characteristics of a planar lightwave circuit device according to claim 16, wherein the step of adjusting the optical characteristics of said device is lengthening an effective optical path length of said waveguide core by raising the refractive index of the portion of said waveguide core by focusing said laser beam.

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method for adjusting optical characteristics of a planar lightwave circuit device according to anyone of claims 16 to 18, wherein at least one of said laser beam used to form said waveguide core is a femto-second laser.